

JUN 12 1961

Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP75-00001

HERALD

E. 10,082

S. 10,512

JUN 12 1961

Holmes Alexander

CPYRGHT *Rewriting The Economic Books*

FOIAb3b

WASHINGTON — On Channel Five, on Sunday nights in Washington, you can hear a TV program called "A Way of Thinking" by a man who calls himself Dr. Albert Edward Burke—but some, and maybe much, of it is not as it seems.

With a little drag at the State Department's passport office, for example, you can find that in 1947 Burke changed his name from Burkenblut, his father being a Russian engineer who came to America between World Wars.

FROM 1942-46 BURKE (still Burkenblut) was in the weather research phase of the U. S. Air Force. In 1948, he took his master's degree at the University of California in Los Angeles, where he had also obtained his B.A. He was a candidate for doctor of philosophy at Harvard, but I'm not sure he earned that degree. From 1951-57, he had an annual appointment to lecture on geography at Yale, but the appointment was not thereafter renewed.

MY INFORMATION IS that he served as an undercover agent for CIA, now being investigated for its catastrophic failure in the Cuban fiasco. There are well posted men in Washington who believe that the Burke program is part of a vast brain-wash project, which was also instrumental in the removal from command of Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker for speaking well to his soldiers of the John Birch Society, causing that gallant soldier to stand a humiliating investigation with the possible outcome of a court martial. Some of my information, I should say, grows out of material which Gen. Walker and his attorneys are studying for his defense.

FOR MANY YEARS the intellectuals in CIA and the State Department (and recently in the White House) have held that Communism is bad, dictatorship is worse, socialism is good, and that we would be better loved around the world if pro-American dictators like Batista and Trujillo were overthrown in favor of socialist regimes.

You can get well-positioned men in Washington to tell you that CIA and the State Department connived for the overthrow of several pro-American dictators, and encouraged "a way of thinking" in

America which this column sometimes describes as liberalissimo and globalissimo.

WELL, DR. BURKE'S program, "A Way of Thinking," on Sunday, June 4th, deserved these terms, which he may consider complimentary but I do not. Burke's thesis was the worn-out, sway-backed one about America's dependence upon the "world," specifically the hot, unimportant, uncivilized, unfriendly regions of Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Burke was trying to sell the idea that we need these low-cloth, cane-brake economies more than they need us. He tried to show that without five or six dozen minerals, mainly available in these sweating jungles, we could neither win a war nor live in peace and prosperity.

IT SEEMS STRANGE to a Princeton man that Dr. Burke couldn't learn better than this at UCLA, Harvard and Yale. Exactly the opposite of what he says is true. Those poor beggars in the backward lands desperately need our trade for their raw materials, our investment in their economies and our machinery in their fields and plants. But our need of them is a bedraggled myth that has died as many deaths as an alley cat.

MY STATEMENT is one that could be proved ad infinitum, but a few common-knowledge examples will suffice. During World War II, we were cut off from natural rubber. Did our wheels run down? No, we developed synthetic rubber. In the late 1940's, one of the foreign aid arguments was that we had to have uranium from the Belgian Congo. Well, do we need it? No, we have found all the atomic energy we need in the Western Hemisphere, mainly in the Western States. In the early 1950's, with missiles and electronics coming fast, it was said that we were dependent on the African diamond mines. Is it true? No, because General Electric began to develop synthetic industrial diamonds. In one-tenth carat sizes, the proper size for many industrial uses, the man-made diamonds have been sold in commercial quantities since October, 1957. In January, 1961, GE announced the first carat-sized diamonds, although they are far from perfected.

THIS QFT-TOLD story of American self-sufficiency is a beautiful thing in all respects—save one. It doesn't fit the liberalissimo-globalissimo thesis that we have a dependent, inhuman economy.

Well, we know that history is often "rewritten" when it doesn't suit the political rulers. But here we've got economics "rewritten" because it doesn't suit some political thinkers. You might say all this has nothing to do with governmental intellectuals, Gen. Walker, the John Birch Society, the horrible failure of the CIA, the Cold War and the future of America. (Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000200630035-9